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2	BRS	L2	34318	regulat\$5 near5 (type or kind or define or defining or definition or content or category\$4)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:11
3	BRS	L3	5985	criteri\$3 near5 (type or kind or define or defining or definition or content or category\$4)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:12

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
4	BRS	L4	124393	requir\$5 near5 (type or kind or define)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:17
5	BRS	L5	4997	requir\$5 near5 (defining or definition)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:17
6	BRS	L6	27961	requir\$5 near5 (content or categor\$4)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:18

Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
7 BRS	L7	1022	rule near5 attribut\$5	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:19
8 BRS	L8	287	regulat\$5 near5 attribut\$5	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:19
9 BRS	L9	464	criteri\$3 near5 attribut\$5	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:19

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
10	BRS	L10	3366	requir\$5 near5 attribut\$5	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:20
11	BRS	L11	74783	data near5 (allow or allowed or allowing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:27
12	BRS	L12	74783	datum near5 (allow or allowed or allowing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:34

Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
13 BRS	L13	5463	(data or datum or database) near5 (authorize or authorized or authorization or authorizing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:35
14 BRS	L14	2757	(data or datum or database) near5 (auhtenticate or authenticated or authentication or authenticating)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:35
15 BRS	L15	15643	(data or datum or database) near5 (verify or verifying or verified or verification)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:38

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
16	BRS	L16	35493	(data or datum or database) near5 (permit or permitting or permitted or permission)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwent t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:44
17	BRS	L17	3745	database near5 (allow or allowed or allowing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwent t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:44
18	BRS	L18	78704	data near5 (enable or enabled or enabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwent t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:49

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
19	BRS	L19	1915	database near5 (enable or enabled or enabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:49
20	BRS	L20	78704	datum near5 (enable or enabled or enabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:54
21	BRS	L21	9152	(data or datum or database) near5 (disable or disabled or disabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 15:57

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22 BRS	L22	15427	(data or datum or database) near5 inhibit\$4	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:06
23 BRS	L23	45408	data near5 (prevent or prevented or preventing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:25
24 BRS	L24	588	database near5 (prevent or prevented or preventing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:26

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25 BRS	L25	45408	datum near5 (prevent or prevented or preventing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:31
26 BRS	L26	389	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near15 (11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20)	USPAT; 6USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:18
27 BRS	L27	45	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near15 (21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25)	USPAT; 6USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:47

Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
28 BRS	L28	49705	(information or record or file) near5 (allow or allowed or allowing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:39
29 BRS	L29	47036	(information or record or file) near5 (enable or enabled or enabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:42
30 BRS	L30	4739	(information or record or file) near5 (authorize or authorized or authorization or authorizing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:43

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31 BRS	L31	2968	(information or record or file) near5 (authenticate or authenticated or authenticating or authenticating)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:43
32 BRS	L32	9911	(information or record or file) near5 (verify or verifying or verified or verification)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:44
33 BRS	L33	24536	(information or record or file) near5 (permit or permitting or permitted or permission)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:47

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34	BRS	L34	3131	(information or record or file) near5 (disable or disabled or disabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:48
35	BRS	L35	32414	(information or record or file) near5 (inhibit\$4 or prevent\$4)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:53
36	BRS	L36	258	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near15 (28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33)	USPAT; USOCR; 6 EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:53

Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
37 BRS	L37	21	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near15 (34 or 35)	USPAT; USOCR; 6 EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:55
38 BRS	L38	67122	(application or program or software or game) near5 (allow or allowed or allowing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 16:59
39 BRS	L39	54947	(application or program or software or game) near5 (enable or enabled or enabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:03

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
40	BRS	L40	2910	(application or program or software or game) near5 (authorize or authorized or authorization or authorizing)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:03
41	BRS	L41	1331	(application or program or software or game) near5 (authenticate or authenticated or authentication or authenticating)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:04
42	BRS	L42	7486	(application or program or software or game) near5 (verify or verifying or verified or verification)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:05

Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
43 BRS	L43	37980	(application or program or software or game) near5 (permit or permitting or permitted or permission)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:08
44 BRS	L44	4847	(application or program or software or game) near5 (disable or disabled or disabling)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:09
45 BRS	L45	50387	(application or program or software or game) near5 (inhibit\$4 or prevent\$4)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:15

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46	BRS	L46	310	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near15 (38 or 39 or 40 or 41 or 42 or 43)	USPAT; USOCR; 6 EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:15
47	BRS	L47	39	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near15 (44 or 45)	USPAT; USOCR; 6 EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:16
48	BRS	L48	15	(26 or 36 or 46) and (27 or 37 or 47)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:20

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
49	BRS	L49	390	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near5 remot\$3	USPAT; USOCR; 6EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:19
50	BRS	L50	423	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near5 central\$3	USPAT; USOCR; 6EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:19
51	BRS	L51	440	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near5 center	USPAT; USOCR; 6EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:19

	Type	L #	Hits	Search Text	DBs	Time Stamp
52	BRS	L52	3556	(1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 EPO; or 7 or 8 or 9 or 10) near5 JPO; separat\$4 Derwen t; IBM TDB	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:20
53	BRS	L53	66	(26 or 36 or 46 or 27 or 37 EPO; or 47) and (49 or 50 or 51 or 52)	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:23
54	BRS	L54	81	53 or 48	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:54

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55 BRS	L55 7	383431 0pd<19710101	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB		2001/01/05 17:55
56 BRS	L56	2744	(705/50 or 705/51 or 705/1 or 707/1 or 707/9 or 707/104).cc1s.	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:57
57 BRS	L57	23	55 and 56	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:58

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58	BRS	L58	4	("5933498" or "6098172") .pn.  <i>From prior search.</i>	USPAT; USOCR; EPO; JPO; Derwen t; IBM TDB	2001/01/05 17:59

LS4 results

	Document ID	Issue Date	Inventor	Current OR	Current XRef	Pages
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2	JP 07219900 A	19950818				11
3	US 5875330 A	19990223	Goti, Juan Carlos	717/1		44
4	US 5892900 A	19990406	Ginter, Karl L. , et al.	713/200	713/201	359
5	US 6112181 A	20000829	Shear, Victor H. , et al.	705/1		149

758 results

	Document ID	Issue Date	Inventor	Current OR	Current XRef	Pages
1	US 5933498 A	19990803	Schneck, Paul B. , et al.	705/54		51
2	US 6098172 A	20000801	Coss, Michael John , et al.	713/201		20

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Relational databases: An accountant's primer

Hooper, Paul; Page, John

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1 ABSTRACT: Today, accounting systems data are placed in databases, allowing users to  
2 query data without going through the preprogrammed accounting system or learn programming  
3 in order to get at the data. There has been a great deal of experimentation with different ways to  
4 accomplish the database approach to business processing, and 3 approaches have turned out to be  
5 the most common: 1. the hierarchical or tree structure, 2. the network or plex structure, and 3.  
6 the relational or table structure. The relational approach is based on tables of data in rows and  
7 columns, with operations defined on those tables. Among other things, the relational database  
8 allows relationships between tables to be created later, after the data tables have been developed  
9 and the data entered. As accounting data processing moves away from centralized mainframe  
10 processing it moves toward either decentralized processing, with totally separate databases, or  
11 distributed database systems.

12 TEXT: All information begins as data. The only thing more important than that is how the  
13 data are organized when they are stored.

14 Every day at General Motors 1,183 mainframes process 17 million transactions and borrow  
15 \$1.7 billion from 700 banks. The IRS receives more than 500 million informational returns each  
16 year. VISA has 77.2 million cards generating \$60.6 billion dollars in charges, with 25 million  
17 cards used in 1,564 automated teller machines in 25 states.

18 As you can see, accounting data are at the heart of any company's information system,  
19 regardless of the level of computer sophistication. Yet, until recently, only trained computer  
20 professionals could access computerized data. Users could not access the data directly, so they  
21 were not as useful as they could have been.

22 With the traditional data access approach, queries were difficult. A separate computer  
23 program was required for every type of analysis, and it was hard to get access to data for purposes  
24 other than those planned for originally and thus preprogrammed into the accounting system. Now  
25 accounting systems data are placed in a database. Accounting programs, such as transaction  
26 processing and financial reporting, remain much as they were, but the database is accessible  
27 directly with tools that the end user can handle. With this approach, virtually anyone can query  
28 the database. The user does not have to go through the preprogrammed accounting system or learn  
29 programming in order to get to the data.

## BENEFITS AND COSTS OF THE DATABASE APPROACH

Problems with retrieving data in both batch and interactive processing systems using the traditional file approach led to the basic concept behind the database. With the database there is one set of uniquely defined data items, and all computer applications use the same data items that are separate from the applications that use them. This setup allows analysis of the same data across applications. It also means that the applications and the data can be changed independent of each other, so data can be added to, modified, or deleted from the database without the programs using them being affected.

For example, a company may have one set of prices for materials used by inventory control for costing issues, another set of prices in the engineering department used for design of new or revised products, and still another set of prices used by the purchasing department for determining sources. These different sets of prices are updated at different times by different people from different information. Needless to say, the prices probably rarely agree, even though they presumably represent the same thing. The database approach to this problem is to have one set of prices for materials and then have each application use the same information.

The database approach also has simplified applications development. All file systems have the same basic components for file creation, maintenance, transaction processing, and report writing. Once the applications are separated from the data, these programs can be developed just once for all application data. Previously, there had been much duplication of effort in the development of these programs because they were tied to the specific files they used.

But the database approach is not without its costs. The main cost involves coordination. If the same number will uniquely identify a supplier in the ordering system, the accounts payable system, and the inventory system, someone or some group must coordinate the design of these systems. The business cannot allow separate groups to develop systems independently. But the price of coordination can be higher than a company is willing to pay. Also, because each system is not designed unto itself, certain compromises must be accepted in individual components so that the total system will fit together. As a result, each component may not be optimal for a particular task, frequently a concern of users who are more interested in optimizing one specific subsystem, such as inventory, than in optimizing the overall company's operations.

## RELATIONAL DATABASES

Businesses use data items, records, and files to keep track of their operations and accounting data. The most useful way to visualize data items and records is to see them as a table of information called a flat file. The term flat file is used because the information can be viewed in two dimensions: rows (records) and columns (data items) similar to tables of data in a book. Table 1A has a row for each (customer) record in the file and a column for each of the four data items. For convenience, the name of each data item, such as customer number, is at the top of the appropriate column.

For a flat file to be able to store and analyze data, it must have the following characteristics:

1. All items in each column must be the same kind of data, such as a customer number, a customer name, or a customer address.
2. Each column must have its own unique name, separate from all others. In this case, the

72 names are cust-no, cust-name, cust-addr1, and cust-addr2.

73 3. All rows must be different in at least one data item from every other row. In other  
74 words, two rows of data cannot be exactly alike. If two rows are alike, either they refer to the  
75 same customer, so the duplicate can be eliminated, or they refer to two separate customers, in  
76 which case there must be one or more data items to distinguish between those customers.

77 4. Every cell (the intersection of a row and a column) contains only one data item. Thus  
78 every customer has exactly one cust-no, one cust-name, and so on.

79 Having one and only one data item per cell is significant to the design and number of flat  
80 files. Suppose a manager is interested in all invoices for a particular customer. Some customers  
81 will have only one invoice while others will have two, four, or more. These invoices would not,  
82 therefore, fit into a flat file without some modification because each cell must contain only one  
83 item. A situation such as multiple invoices for a customer is called a repeating group because there  
84 potentially is more than one data item for a customer. Fortunately, repeating groups can be dealt  
85 with by forming two flat files. The process of forming additional flat files from the repeating  
86 groups is called normalization.

87 Another name for a flat file is a relation because it represents a relationship among the  
88 various data items of the file. In Table 1C, the relation is that all the data items in one record  
89 represent one customer. On the other hand, there are two relationships shown in Table 1, one of  
90 customers (A) and one of invoices (B). In B, there is one record for each invoice. If there are  
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## 101 RELATIONAL DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (RDBMS)

102 (Table Omitted) Captioned as: Table 1

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176                   queried and processed just as a base table would be, even though the original data are not repeated  
177                   in the view and all of the data are stored only once in the base table.

#### 178                   ADVANTAGES OF THE RELATIONAL APPROACH

179                   The relational approach is based on tables of data in rows and columns, with operations  
180                   defined on those tables. Yet these tables must possess the four characteristics of the relational  
181                   approach described above. The RDBMS (not the user) must ensure that all database tables comply  
182                   with these requirements. When they do, the RDBMS is able to apply mathematical operations and  
183                   strict logic to them, which eliminates traditional deficiencies of DBMSs and offers significant  
184                   practical benefits. The table structure of an RDBMS is simple and familiar. It is general enough  
185                   to represent most types of data, is independent of any internal computer mechanisms, and it is  
186                   flexible because the user can restructure tables. Transaction processing is slower than with other  
187                   approaches, but modifying the structure of files and adding data items (columns) is considerably  
188                   easier. Also, the relational approach allows relationships between tables to be created later, after  
189                   the data tables have been developed and the data entered. In the hierarchical and network  
190                   approaches, allowable queries about the data have to be identified before the database is developed  
191                   so that the pointers between files and records can be created along with the database.

192                   Data manipulation by an RDBMS is managed by a well-defined, complete set of  
193                   mathematical operations, which always yield tables as results. With relational operations, data

194 access no longer needs to be procedural. The user can specify a data request by giving the  
195 operations that must be performed on other tables to derive it. The system translates these requests  
196 into sets of efficient processing steps. A relational DBMS can accumulate information about the  
197 database (such as statistics) in a catalog  
198 to optimize these operations.

199 **SYSTEMS AND TRENDS**

200 (Photograph Omitted) Captioned as: Relational databases translate requests for  
201 information into logical processing steps.

202 Leading relational programs for mainframes are DB2 for the MVS operating system and  
203 SQL/DS for the VM/CMS operating system. An SQL/DS application, for example, can have up  
204 to 70 million rows, hundreds of tables, and thousands of columns. SQL/DS is installed on more  
205 than 7,500 mainframes and costs more than \$100,000 per installation. Other leading relational  
206 databases are Oracle and INGRES for minicomputers, dBASE and Paradox for microcomputers.

207 The mathematical and logical basis of the relational approach makes it a natural candidate  
208 for a database standard. A standard based on the relational model would yield the best of all  
209 worlds: The products that complied would offer both relational features and compatibility with  
210 a defined standard, and the underlying database functions would be the same for all products,  
211 regardless of whether they are designed for a single user on a PC or multiple users in more  
212 sophisticated systems. In addition, tools such as spreadsheets and word processors do operate on  
213 some of these databases. Both the American National Standards Institute and the International  
214 Standards Organization have developed standards, and all DBMSs are moving toward them.

215 RDBMS are moving toward support of distributed databases, which are databases spread  
216 throughout the computer systems in a network. One benefit of a distributed database is that local  
217 data can be retrieved without any network activity, thus reducing communications costs when  
218 compared with a centralized database at a remote site. Another potential advantage is that each  
219 database can be sized appropriately for its amount of data, the complexity of user requirements,  
220 and the number of users. As the system grows, added demand can be met more easily than with  
221 a centralized system by making smaller changes to existing databases or by adding new databases  
222 to a network. Current RDBMSs deliver these benefits by allowing a collection of database  
223 operations (called a unit of work) to retrieve and update data at a remote site. Future capabilities  
224 will add support for a distributed unit of work, which allows a user to access data at multiple  
225 locations simultaneously.

226 RDBMSs are moving toward providing access to the data for applications running on  
227 remote computers. This style of distributed computing is called client/server, where the computer  
228 providing access to the data is called the database server, and the remote computer requesting the  
229 data is called the client.

230 In client/server, one branch of a company in one location may have primary contact and  
231 conduct virtually all transactions with one segment of the company's customers, while other  
232 branches work with other customers. It is more efficient from the standpoint of data storage,  
233 transaction processing, and data communications if each branch maintains the data files for its

234 customers while allowing other branches access to the data. This approach is called distributed  
235 data processing because the databases are distributed around the operational locations of the firm.  
236 If the databases in different branches or divisions are not connected and are kept separate, the  
237 company is operating with a decentralized data processing system.

238 There are four goals for a distributed database system:

239 A distributed system should appear to each user to be a single, nondistributed system so  
240 that queries and transactions that affect distributed data look no different from local queries and  
241 transactions.

242 Each location should have local autonomy and not require the approval of some centralized  
243 group for local changes.

244 A central site should not be required for data storage or processing.

245 Operation should be continuous.

246 To achieve these goals, there are several features of a distributed DBMS that should be  
247 transparent and of no concern to users. Table 2 summarizes them.

248 As accounting data processing moves away from centralized mainframe processing it  
249 moves toward either decentralized processing, with totally separate databases, or distributed  
250 database systems. Proof of the flexibility of the RDBMS is its ability to adjust to the newer, much  
251 more complicated ways of dealing with data.

252 (Table Omitted) Captioned as: Table 2.

253 Author Affiliation:

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255 at (302) 831-1795.

256 John Page is associate professor of accounting at Tulane University. He can be reached at  
257 (504) 865-5475.

258 They are coauthors of Accounting and Information Systems, 4th edition, 1995, published  
259 by Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

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**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DATA RIGHTS MANAGEMENT**

**SYSTÈME ET PROCÉDÉ DE GESTION DES DROITS EN MATIÈRE DE DONNÉES**

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**English Abstract**

A system and method for data rights management across multiple data rights management architectures is disclosed. The system and method solves the problems posed by multiple incompatible data rights management architectures. In particular, a data rights management clearing house is provided that generates permits, permit classes, and enables content packaging across multiple data rights management architectures. Consumers may acquire rights to content packaged with different data rights management architecture from the single data rights management clearing house. Additionally, the system and method enables content packagers to package content with multiple data rights management architectures. Finally, the data rights management clearing house provides consumers with a single location from which to manage data access rights and restore data access rights that have been lost.

CLIPPEDIMAGE= JP403276936A

PUB-NO: JP403276936A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 03276936 A

TITLE: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

PUBN-DATE: December 9, 1991

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

KIHARA, YOICHI

INT-CL\_(IPC): H04L012/00; H04L009/00 ; H04L009/10 ; H04L009/12

US-CL-CURRENT: 340/825.06

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To attain the discrimination of the execution of a requirement and to recording medium of a terminal equipment and allowing an information center to acquire the attribute data of lots of unspecified users via a communication channel.

CONSTITUTION: Attribute data such as age and occupation of users are accumulated in storage media 17, 34 provided respectively with a terminal equipment 12 and an external storage medium terminal equipment 25. When the requirement of data transmission/reception is given from the devices 12, 25 to an information center 1, the information center 1 acquires user attribute data 24, 35 stored in the terminal equipment via a communication network 11. Thus, even when lots of unspecified users use a terminal equipment and requirement data transmission/reception of data to the information center, the requirement execution and requirement classification using the user attribute data are attained.

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Relational databases: An accountant's primer

Hooper, Paul; Page, John

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1 ABSTRACT: Today, accounting systems data are placed in databases, allowing users to  
2 query data without going through the preprogrammed accounting system or learn programming  
3 in order to get at the data. There has been a great deal of experimentation with different ways to  
4 accomplish the database approach to business processing, and 3 approaches have turned out to be  
5 the most common: 1. the hierarchical or tree structure, 2. the network or plex structure, and 3.  
6 the relational or table structure. The relational approach is based on tables of data in rows and  
7 columns, with operations defined on those tables. Among other things, the relational database  
8 allows relationships between tables to be created later, after the data tables have been developed  
9 and the data entered. As accounting data processing moves away from centralized mainframe  
10 processing it moves toward either decentralized processing, with totally separate databases, or  
11 distributed database systems.

12 TEXT: All information begins as data. The only thing more important than that is how the  
13 data are organized when they are stored.

14 Every day at General Motors 1,183 mainframes process 17 million transactions and borrow  
15 \$1.7 billion from 700 banks. The IRS receives more than 500 million informational returns each  
16 year. VISA has 77.2 million cards generating \$60.6 billion dollars in charges, with 25 million  
17 cards used in 1,564 automated teller machines in 25 states.

18 As you can see, accounting data are at the heart of any company's information system,  
19 regardless of the level of computer sophistication. Yet, until recently, only trained computer  
20 professionals could access computerized data. Users could not access the data directly, so they  
21 were not as useful as they could have been.

22 With the traditional data access approach, queries were difficult. A separate computer  
23 program was required for every type of analysis, and it was hard to get access to data for purposes  
24 other than those planned for originally and thus preprogrammed into the accounting system. Now  
25 accounting systems data are placed in a database. Accounting programs, such as transaction  
26 processing and financial reporting, remain much as they were, but the database is accessible  
27 directly with tools that the end user can handle. With this approach, virtually anyone can query  
28 the database. The user does not have to go through the preprogrammed accounting system or learn  
29 programming in order to get to the data.

## BENEFITS AND COSTS OF THE DATABASE APPROACH

Problems with retrieving data in both batch and interactive processing systems using the traditional file approach led to the basic concept behind the database. With the database there is one set of uniquely defined data items, and all computer applications use the same data items that are separate from the applications that use them. This setup allows analysis of the same data across applications. It also means that the applications and the data can be changed independent of each other, so data can be added to, modified, or deleted from the database without the programs using them being affected.

For example, a company may have one set of prices for materials used by inventory control for costing issues, another set of prices in the engineering department used for design of new or revised products, and still another set of prices used by the purchasing department for determining sources. These different sets of prices are updated at different times by different people from different information. Needless to say, the prices probably rarely agree, even though they presumably represent the same thing. The database approach to this problem is to have one set of prices for materials and then have each application use the same information.

The database approach also has simplified applications development. All file systems have the same basic components for file creation, maintenance, transaction processing, and report writing. Once the applications are separated from the data, these programs can be developed just once for all application data. Previously, there had been much duplication of effort in the development of these programs because they were tied to the specific files they used.

But the database approach is not without its costs. The main cost involves coordination. If the same number will uniquely identify a supplier in the ordering system, the accounts payable system, and the inventory system, someone or some group must coordinate the design of these systems. The business cannot allow separate groups to develop systems independently. But the price of coordination can be higher than a company is willing to pay. Also, because each system is not designed unto itself, certain compromises must be accepted in individual components so that the total system will fit together. As a result, each component may not be optimal for a particular task, frequently a concern of users who are more interested in optimizing one specific subsystem, such as inventory, than in optimizing the overall company's operations.

## RELATIONAL DATABASES

Businesses use data items, records, and files to keep track of their operations and accounting data. The most useful way to visualize data items and records is to see them as a table of information called a flat file. The term flat file is used because the information can be viewed in two dimensions: rows (records) and columns (data items) similar to tables of data in a book. Table 1A has a row for each (customer) record in the file and a column for each of the four data items. For convenience, the name of each data item, such as customer number, is at the top of the appropriate column.

For a flat file to be able to store and analyze data, it must have the following characteristics:

1. All items in each column must be the same kind of data, such as a customer number, a customer name, or a customer address.
2. Each column must have its own unique name, separate from all others. In this case, the

72 names are cust-no, cust-name, cust-addr1, and cust-addr2.

73 3. All rows must be different in at least one data item from every other row. In other  
74 words, two rows of data cannot be exactly alike. If two rows are alike, either they refer to the  
75 same customer, so the duplicate can be eliminated, or they refer to two separate customers, in  
76 which case there must be one or more data items to distinguish between those customers.

77 4. Every cell (the intersection of a row and a column) contains only one data item. Thus  
78 every customer has exactly one cust-no, one cust-name, and so on.

79 Having one and only one data item per cell is significant to the design and number of flat  
80 files. Suppose a manager is interested in all invoices for a particular customer. Some customers  
81 will have only one invoice while others will have two, four, or more. These invoices would not,  
82 therefore, fit into a flat file without some modification because each cell must contain only one  
83 item. A situation such as multiple invoices for a customer is called a repeating group because there  
84 potentially is more than one data item for a customer. Fortunately, repeating groups can be dealt  
85 with by forming two flat files. The process of forming additional flat files from the repeating  
86 groups is called normalization.

87 Another name for a flat file is a relation because it represents a relationship among the  
88 various data items of the file. In Table 1C, the relation is that all the data items in one record  
89 represent one customer. On the other hand, there are two relationships shown in Table 1, one of  
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173                   Views-The RDBMS must be able to create logical tables (called views) from the base  
174                   tables. For example, the information about an individual that a payroll clerk is authorized to look  
175                   at could be put into a view that the payroll clerk would be able to access. The view could be  
176                   queried and processed just as a base table would be, even though the original data are not repeated  
177                   in the view and all of the data are stored only once in the base table.

## 178                   ADVANTAGES OF THE RELATIONAL APPROACH

179                   The relational approach is based on tables of data in rows and columns, with operations  
180                   defined on those tables. Yet these tables must possess the four characteristics of the relational  
181                   approach described above. The RDBMS (not the user) must ensure that all database tables comply  
182                   with these requirements. When they do, the RDBMS is able to apply mathematical operations and  
183                   strict logic to them, which eliminates traditional deficiencies of DBMSs and offers significant  
184                   practical benefits. The table structure of an RDBMS is simple and familiar. It is general enough  
185                   to represent most types of data, is independent of any internal computer mechanisms, and it is  
186                   flexible because the user can restructure tables. Transaction processing is slower than with other  
187                   approaches, but modifying the structure of files and adding data items (columns) is considerably  
188                   easier. Also, the relational approach allows relationships between tables to be created later, after  
189                   the data tables have been developed and the data entered. In the hierarchical and network  
190                   approaches, allowable queries about the data have to be identified before the database is developed  
191                   so that the pointers between files and records can be created along with the database.

192                   Data manipulation by an RDBMS is managed by a well-defined, complete set of  
193                   mathematical operations, which always yield tables as results. With relational operations, data

194 access no longer needs to be procedural. The user can specify a data request by giving the  
195 operations that must be performed on other tables to derive it. The system translates these requests  
196 into sets of efficient processing steps. A relational DBMS can accumulate information about the  
197 database (such as statistics) in a catalog  
198 to optimize these operations.

199 **SYSTEMS AND TRENDS**

200 (Photograph Omitted) Captioned as: Relational databases translate requests for  
201 information into logical processing steps.

202 Leading relational programs for mainframes are DB2 for the MVS operating system and  
203 SQL/DS for the VM/CMS operating system. An SQL/DS application, for example, can have up  
204 to 70 million rows, hundreds of tables, and thousands of columns. SQL/DS is installed on more  
205 than 7,500 mainframes and costs more than \$100,000 per installation. Other leading relational  
206 databases are Oracle and INGRES for minicomputers, dBASE and Paradox for microcomputers.

207 The mathematical and logical basis of the relational approach makes it a natural candidate  
208 for a database standard. A standard based on the relational model would yield the best of all  
209 worlds: The products that complied would offer both relational features and compatibility with  
210 a defined standard, and the underlying database functions would be the same for all products,  
211 regardless of whether they are designed for a single user on a PC or multiple users in more  
212 sophisticated systems. In addition, tools such as spreadsheets and word processors do operate on  
213 some of these databases. Both the American National Standards Institute and the International  
214 Standards Organization have developed standards, and all DBMSs are moving toward them.

215 RDBMS are moving toward support of distributed databases, which are databases spread  
216 throughout the computer systems in a network. One benefit of a distributed database is that local  
217 data can be retrieved without any network activity, thus reducing communications costs when  
218 compared with a centralized database at a remote site. Another potential advantage is that each  
219 database can be sized appropriately for its amount of data, the complexity of user requirements,  
220 and the number of users. As the system grows, added demand can be met more easily than with  
221 a centralized system by making smaller changes to existing databases or by adding new databases  
222 to a network. Current RDBMSs deliver these benefits by allowing a collection of database  
223 operations (called a unit of work) to retrieve and update data at a remote site. Future capabilities  
224 will add support for a distributed unit of work, which allows a user to access data at multiple  
225 locations simultaneously.

226 RDBMSs are moving toward providing access to the data for applications running on  
227 remote computers. This style of distributed computing is called client/server, where the computer  
228 providing access to the data is called the database server, and the remote computer requesting the  
229 data is called the client.

230 In client/server, one branch of a company in one location may have primary contact and  
231 conduct virtually all transactions with one segment of the company's customers, while other  
232 branches work with other customers. It is more efficient from the standpoint of data storage,  
233 transaction processing, and data communications if each branch maintains the data files for its

234 customers while allowing other branches access to the data. This approach is called distributed  
235 data processing because the databases are distributed around the operational locations of the firm.  
236 If the databases in different branches or divisions are not connected and are kept separate, the  
237 company is operating with a decentralized data processing system.

238 There are four goals for a distributed database system:

239 A distributed system should appear to each user to be a single, nondistributed system so  
240 that queries and transactions that affect distributed data look no different from local queries and  
241 transactions.

242 Each location should have local autonomy and not require the approval of some centralized  
243 group for local changes.

244 A central site should not be required for data storage or processing.

245 Operation should be continuous.

246 To achieve these goals, there are several features of a distributed DBMS that should be  
247 transparent and of no concern to users. Table 2 summarizes them.

248 As accounting data processing moves away from centralized mainframe processing it  
249 moves toward either decentralized processing, with totally separate databases, or distributed  
250 database systems. Proof of the flexibility of the RDBMS is its ability to adjust to the newer, much  
251 more complicated ways of dealing with data.

252 (Table Omitted) Captioned as: Table 2.

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ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To prevent the contents of secret data from being known by a third required to be secret so as not to permit the contents of data required to be secret to be comprehended.

CONSTITUTION: Date/time data supplied from a clocking part 10 is stored in the date/time data part 111 of RAM 11. Next, a secret flag is read from the data part 115 of RAM 11 by a secret flag storage part 113 and data of a date/ time area and a content area is read by a buffer part 114. Then, the secret flag storage part 113 is referred so that it is judged whether or not the data is the secret one. When it is judged to be secret data, code is converted. At this time, the code being different from the code of original data is set in the buffer part 114. The converted code of the buffer part 114 is transmitted to the display buffer 31 of a CLD driver 3 so that scramble-display being entirely different from original data is executed in a display part 2.

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